को 50:50 आधार पर सहायता प्रदान की जाती है । इसके अतिरिक्त, पहचान किये गये बंधुआ श्रमिकों के प्रभावी पुनर्वास हेतु संसाधनों के एकीकरण के लिए राज्य सरकारों को केन्द्र प्रायोजित योजना के अंतर्गत उपलब्ध सहायता को विभिन्न गरीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रमों के अन्तगत उपलब्ध निधियों के साथ उचित समन्वयन की सलाह दी गई है। कुछ राज्य जसे आन्ध्र प्रदेश बंधुआ बाल श्रमिकों को आश्रम स्कूलों/रिहायशी स्कूलों आदि में प्रवेश देने में प्राथमिकता देते है जहां उन्हें अध्ययन की सुविधाएं प्रदान की जाती है ।

Imports and Exports of commodities

*294. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1999 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th March, 1995 and state:

(a) the number of commodities imported during the last three years;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange spent thereon during this period;

(c) the number of commodities exported during the last three years: and

(d) what concrete steps are being taken by Government to improve the balance of payment of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). For recording the data on foreign trade, India is following an eight digit classification system, known as Indian Trade Classification based on Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System developed by Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) Brussels. The export-import commodities identified with the ultimate eight-digit level codes of ITC (HS) and counted as such were in the following number during the last three years :

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (April-November)
Export .	8049	8286	8021
Import .	5961	6206	6030

The total imports (estimated by DGCI&S), i.e. foreign exchange value of imports, during the last three years is given below:—

	US$ Million	Rs. Crore
1992-93 . .	21882	63375
1993-94 . . .	23306	73101
1994-95* (April-Feb.) . .	25063	78635

*Provisionl Figures.

(d) Recent years' performance of external sector has vindicated India's balance of payments strategy of pursuing a prudent current account deficit. The country has followed a cautious approach towards full capital account convertibility, maintaining foreign exchange reserves, management of external debt with the objective of discouragement of short-term borrowings, a stable exchange rate, encouragement of foreign direct investment and other flows and, above all, strong export growth.

Decline in Export Growth rate is Comparison to Targetted Growth rate

!295. SHRI J. S. RAJU:
MAULANA OBAIDULLLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 898 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether export growth rate has declined below the targetted growth rate during the financial year 1994.95;

(b) if so, the details of monthly quarterly growth rate of exports during the years in comparison to the corresponding period for the last year; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b).

No formal export target had been set for 1994-95. However, trade and industry had been exhorted to achieve export growth of 25 per cent during 1994-95. Exports during April-February 1994-95 the latest period for which aggregate trade statistics are available, have registered an increase of 17.3 per cent in US Dollars terms over the corresponding period last year. As per provisional estimates, monthly export growth rates in US terms during April-February 1994-95, over the corresponding months of 1993-94 are as given below :

Months	%Increase
April	12.6
May	6.7
June	9.4
July	6.0
August	24.6
September	24.0
October	26.9
November	18.8
December	29.0
January	12.0
February	15 6

(c) Export promotion is a continuous process and steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and other relevant interests Government has taken a number of steps to make the environment policies and procedures more export-friendly. The measures include grant of Income Tax exemption on export profiles, access to cheaper export credit designated in convertible currency and assistance to Export Promotion Counncils/Commodity Boards for export market development.

Trade relations with Asian countries

*296. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to establish increased trade relations with other Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Government is keen to establish and strengthen trade relations with other countries in the Asian region. Government has adopted a strategy to expand trade and economic relations with the Central Asian Republics by signing bilateral framework Agreements, setting up of Joint Commissions/Committees, etc. and ascertaining the possibility of sending goods into Central Asian Republics *via* Iran.

In order to strengthen and increase trade relations between seven South Asian Countries, the Agreement establishing the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) was signed on 11th April, 1993 at the 7th SAARC Summit held in Dhaka. Besides, India has also entered into a Border Trade Agreement with Myanmar to give a boost to the bilateral trade between the two countries. The Indo-Myanmar border trade has been formally launched of 12-4-1995.

Census of beedi workers in the country

*297. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Labour does not have upto date data on beedi workers as 1991 census figures are still waited.